

1998 Hall of Fame Inductee

Gene Pressnall

Gene Pressnall was born in West Union, Iowa, and her family moved to Madison, Wisconsin, when she was two years old. She graduated from Madison East High school and went on to work for the State Tax Office in Madison for 2 years. In 1944, she joined the State Vocational Technical and Adult Education Board and then the Department of Public Instruction, where she would spend the next 46 years as the program assistant for the agricultural education and the FFA.

Gene was never an Ag Instructor or FFA Advisor or even a FFA member, but she guided them all. As was said many times by Floyd Doering, "Will the 'real' Secretary of Agriculture in Wisconsin Please stand up." Gene's professional, efficient, dedicated, loyal, and business-like demeanor made her an outstanding employee of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Gene was honored in many ways over the years She received the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the state and National FFA level, and given a National Executive Sponsors plaque in 1986 for being an executive sponsor for 16 years.

Today she continues her involvement with the Wisconsin FFA Alumni, serving as the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Treasurer since 1978.

All this makes Gene Pressnall the first woman inducted into the Wisconsin FFA Hall of Fame.